



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Air District settles case with Valero Refining Co.**

*Refinery to pay \$266,000 for air quality violations*

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District announced that Valero Refining Co. has agreed to pay \$266,000 to settle air quality violations at its refinery in Benicia.

The settlement covers 22 notices of violation issued to the company for non-compliance with air quality regulations during its operations that occurred largely in 2016. The violations that led to this settlement were corrected soon after they were discovered.

“This settlement helps to ensure that Valero remains vigilant in running its operations according to all air quality regulations,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “Our Air District enforcement and source testing teams, together with a variety of other tools are in place to ensure refineries comply with their permits.”

The notices of violation included:

- Eleven violations for exceedances of emission limits, nine of which were detected by monitors that continuously measure emissions from refinery equipment, another was discovered by a source test conducted by the facility’s contractor, and another was discovered by an Air District inspector.
- Seven violations were hydrocarbon leaks from storage tanks or lines.
- Two violations involved errors in an inspection database that resulted in missed leak inspections for valves omitted from the database.
- One violation was for a missed calibration on an emissions monitor.
- One violation was for a failed monitor accuracy test.

The Air District issues Notices of Violation when facilities violate a specific air quality regulation or rule. Violators are required to respond to the notice within ten days and submit a description of the actions they will take to correct the problem. These actions can include shutting down certain operations immediately or changing operations or equipment to come into compliance.

All settlement funds will be used to fund Air District activities such as the inspection and enforcement activities that led to this settlement.

The [Bay Area Air Quality Management District](#) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area. Connect with the Air District via [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#).

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